(e) if so, what are the facts and recommendations of Central Bureau of Investigation/ Central Vigilance Commission in the matter and the steps taken by the Government against the Executive Director (Vigilance) of India Tourism Development Corporation; and

(f) if not, the reasons and justification therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The matter has been investigated. In the wake of bomb blasts of March, 1993 and due to spurt in terrorist activities, the security arrangements in ITDC units were reviewed by a High Power Committee (H.P.C.) comprising of 7 senior officers of ITDC. The H.P.C. recommended that private security agency may be engaged for the reason that their manpower will be financially cheaper, impartial, easy to rotate and free from vested interests. This will also provide easy manoeuvrability in suddenly reducing or increasing the deployed manpower on short notice in view of Red Alerts etc. It was also decided to identify one single private security agency capable of providing the best qualitative manpower to all ITDC needy units throughout the country. Pre-qualification tenders for selecting a suitable Private Security Agency were invited through press advertisements in national dailies. In all, 25 parties responded. The offers were scrutinized. Out of 25 parties, 19 agencies as had not submitted the requisite documents (like Income Tax Clearance Certificate, certificate of their registration with various statutory bodies i.e. Employee's Provident Fund, Employees' State Insurance, Local Shops and Establishment Registration and copies of their balance sheet for last 3 years etc.) were rejected leaving thereby only 6 parties which submitted their tenders with complete documents. For physical verification of facts/ data provided by the agencies, most of the members of the High Power Committee visited the offices of above referred 6 agencies. After the visit of the committee to those agencies and on going through the relevant documents, the committee dropped 5 agencies on the grounds that they were not having sufficient infrastructure or were not financially sound. The H.P.C. unanimously recommended that M/s Security and Intelligence Services is the best agency to do the job. The recommendation was approved by the ITDC Board of Directors. Hence there was no irregularity in the award of contract.

While deciding about the engagement of manpower from private security agency, it was ensured that neither retrenchment of regular ITDC Security Staff will take place nor their career prospects adversely affected from any angle.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Disputes pending against management of ITDC

2554. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in "The Times of India" of 9th October, 1994 captioned "PSU Officers sue management";

(b) what are the number of disputes pending against the Management of India Tourism Development Corporation in various Courts alongwith brief details reg : violation of service rules alleged therein;

(c) what steps Government have taken streamline the rules and regulations to reduce the incidence of litigation by ITDC Management against its own employees;

(d) whether any approval of the Board or the Ministry taken before filing or defending any case against the Management as per stipulations in the Memorandum and Articles of Association; and

(e) if not, the reasons and justification therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As on 30th September, 94, 22 dispute cases filed by the officers were pending in various courts on service matters relating to termination, suspension, disciplinary action, promotion, transfer etc. Besides, 235 cases of service matters filed by workmen of different units were pending in various courts.

(c) All service matter are governed by well ormulated ITDC rules which are reviewed id amended from time to time depending pon the necessity.

(d) and (e) All legal matters including court ases are dealt with in accordance with power elegated by the Board to Chairman & Manag ig Director and other competent authorities.

'Nigrani Karmchariyon Ko Farz Nibhane Per Bhi Sazza Di Gayi"

2555. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared n Hindi daily "Nav Bharat Times" of 2nd November, 1994 captioned "Nigrani Karmhariyon Ko Farz Nibhane Per Bhi Sazzaa Di Gayi";

(b) if so, whether Government have since ordered investigation into the various irregularities mentioned therein;

(c) what are the recommendations of Central Bureau of Investigation/Central Vigilance Commission and whether any responsibility has been fixed on the concerned India Tourism Development Corporation officials for appropriate action; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The matter has been examined and the position on various issues raised in the subject press report is as follows :

(i) Separation of vigilance and security cadres : The matter is under examination.

(ii) Pilferage of liquor bottles- -The concerned officer has been suspended and disciplinary action has been initiated against him. The case has been registered with the Police also.

(iii) Sale of liquor without insisting on production of passport/airline tickets —The matter was investigated and appropriate action was taken against the concerned official for procedural lapses.

(iv) The liquor was allegedly spurious:— The sample test of the particular liquor was found satisfactory as per the test report.

(v) Non-payment of balance money at the duty free shops—The matter was investigated and the erring staff paid the balance money to the passenger. Further, when disciplinary proceedings were to be initiated against the erring employee, the said passenger personally called to say that he had no grievance and that no action should be taken against the employee as the complainant was in a hurry to depart.

(vi) Irregularities in conducting the LTC tour—A private tour operator who was empanelled with ITDC for conducting LTC tour was caught by the CBI for offering bribe and CBI registered a case against him on 2nd September, 1994. ITDC has stopped giving further business to the said tour operator and he is no longer on the panel of ITDC.

(vii) Misuse of official position by the CMD of TDC in regard to allotment of a room in Ashok Hotel to a NRI— The matter was investigated and the CVC confirmed that no malafide intentions can be attributed and it was a case of procedural lapses only. CVC desired that an administrative cautionary memo should be issued to the CMD. Accordingly, an administrative cautionary memo was issued to him.

Demands of engineers of Indian Airlines

2556. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines is faced with a major crisis with nine out of IA's ten prestigious airbus A-300s grounded following indifferent attitude of the engineers

(b) if so, what are the demands of the engineers and since when it is pending; and

(c) what is the Government's reaction to their demands ?